Acquiring coal mining areas under the Coal Bearing Areas Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957

6736. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of coal mining areas have been acquired under Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957;

(b) if so, the names, location and total area of such coal bearings with relevant date of their acquisitions in each case;

(c) whether it is a fact that although some of these areas were acquired more than ten years ago but have not been developed for production of coal so far; and

(d) if so, on what considerations the State Governments have been made to lose royalty owing to the acquisition but not developing them for production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) As per information furnished by Coal India Limited (CIL), a total of about 1,41,060 Ha of land has been acquired by its subsidiaries at different locations under the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957. The company-wise area is as under:—

Company	Land acquired (in Ha)
E.C.L. . . .	1585
B.C.C.L. . . .	3715
C.C.L. . . .	28072
N.C.L. . . .	11257
W.C.L. . . .	25795
S.E.C.L. . . .	54969
M.C.L. . . .	15667

(c) and (d) Considering the nature of operations in the coal mining industry and the strenuous procedure involved in requisition/acquisition of land, the land has to be acquired in advance of the actual mining operations. Royalty is paid on the basis of coal produced and despatched and as such wherever production has started on such acquired land, royalty is paid to the concerned State Government accordingly.

Expenditure incurred by CIL for import of Longwall Package

6737. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by the Coal India Limited for importing the longwall package for Seetalpur Colliery Project from Gullick Dobson International, U. K.;

(b) whether the equipment could not raise production at the desired level in the colliery project;

(c) whether the colliery had to be closed down;

(d) whether any subsequent enquiries were made to ascertain the actual loss suffered by the Company in foreign and domestic currency and also to find out the responsible persons for such imports; and

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Longwall package for Seetalpur project was imported in 1980 from Gullick Dobson International, U.K. at a capital cost of Rs. 3.15 crores.

(b) Production achieved by the Project was not commensurate with the desired level, primarily due to increasing thickness of an in-seam band with concurrent reduction in the thickness of the seam.

(c) Seetalpur Colliery has since been closed down.

(d) and (e) An Expert Committee had, *inter-alia*, recommended certain modifications for the operation of longwall system at Seetalpur. Despite implementation of the suggested modifications, the desired level of production could not be achieved. Adverse geo-mining conditions prevented continued deployment of the available longwall equipment. Since these were beyond anybody's control, the question of accountability did not arise.

Dhemomain Colliery Project

6738. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that much damage was caused to the Dhemomain Colliery Project of the Coal India Limited due to mishandling and negative views about the same;

(b) whether it is also a fact that two of the imported Dosco roadheader machines costing more than rupees two crores were drowned underground in 1991 and no effort was thereafter made to recover the equipment;

(c) whether the CIL had not expected the situation as it prevailed after the purchase of imported equipment;

(d) whether the project has since been abandoned; and

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Two imported Dosco Road Headers costing Rs. 1.2 crores were submerged underground in 1991. In spite of all efforts made to recover the submerged equipment, these could not be recovered till-date as the site where these equipment have submergd is as yet unapproachable. Efforts to recover these equipment are still continuing.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Does not arise.

Sponsorship scheme in Coal Sector

6739. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a large sponsorship scheme meant for middlemen and the actual consumers do not get advantage of this scheme;

(b) whether Government are aware that State Governments where the coal mines are located are agitated over the denial of sponsorship scheme i.e. denial of supply to small scale industries, Int Bhatta industries, etc.; and

(c) whether Government are considering to give priority to sponsorship system which was involved several years ago and now it has been abandoned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Coal supplies are arranged by the coal companies on the basis of sponsorships or linkages or both. The requirements of actual users receive priority with regard to supply of coal even under Liberalised Sales Scheme. Coal supplies to small users through their nominated agencies/Samitis/Associations etc. are also arranged on the basis of supporting lists of actual users who would be supplied coal by them. The accompanying list of actual users is required to be endorsed by the sponsoring authorities.

(c) The system of sponsorships is in vogue and has not been abandoned.